

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating an internal market, comprising:
automatically ~~representing~~ causing an order to be simultaneously represented in both the internal market and an external market, wherein the internal and external markets each have a plurality of market participants and separately facilitate an exchange between the market participants, and
automatically ensuring the order is executable by a market participant in at most one of the internal market and the external market.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically synchronizing performance of an operation ~~[[of]]~~ at the internal market and the external market.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein automatically synchronizing includes ~~reflecting~~ causing a transaction performed in ~~[[both]]~~ one of the internal ~~market and the external market~~ and external markets to be performed in the other of the internal and external markets, the transaction being ~~a cancel operation~~ an operation to cancel or ~~[[a]]~~ post operation an order.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein automatically synchronizing includes ~~reflecting~~ causing an execute operation performed in one of the internal and external markets ~~[[as]]~~ to cause a cancel operation to be performed in the other of the internal and external markets.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising conditionally performing an operation in one of the internal and external markets, and committing the conditional operation after receiving confirmation from the other of the internal and external

markets that the operation has been communicated to the other of the internal and external markets.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a mechanism for coupling the internal and external markets such that only one of the internal and external markets maintains the order for execution by a market participant at either of the internal market or the external market.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein when one of the internal and external markets is in fast symbol mode, the other of the internal and external markets operates as a router [[for]] to route orders to the fast-symbol market in fast symbol mode without posting the order at the other of the internal and external markets.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein an order can be executed at only the ~~fast-symbol~~ market in fast symbol mode.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising resynchronizing an order book containing orders at each of the internal and external markets before decoupling the internal and external markets, wherein the markets, once decoupled, are capable to separately facilitate an exchange between market participants.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically ensuring uses a ~~platform~~ software process executing on a computer platform that communicates between the internal market and the external market.

11-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) A system configured to operate an internal market, comprising:

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a computing component programmed to represent an order in the internal market and automatically cause the order to be simultaneously represented at an external market, wherein the internal and external markets each have a plurality of market participants and separately facilitate an exchange between the market participants,

wherein the computing component is further configured to automatically ensure that the order is executable by a market participant in at most one of the internal market and the external market.

29. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the computing component is further configured to automatically synchronize performance of an operation at the internal market and the external market.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the computing component is configured to automatically cause a transaction performed in one of the internal and external markets to be performed in the other of the internal and external markets, the transaction being an operation to cancel or post an order.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the computing component is configured to automatically cause an execute operation performed in one of the internal and external markets to cause a cancel operation to be performed in the other of the internal and external markets.

32. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the computing component is configured to conditionally perform an operation in one of the internal and external markets, and commit the conditional operation after receiving confirmation from the other of the internal and external

markets that the operation has been communicated to the other of the internal and external markets.

33. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the computing component is coupled to the external market such that only one of the internal and external markets maintains the order for execution by a market participant at either of the internal market or the external market.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein when one of the internal and external markets is in fast symbol mode, the other of the internal and external markets is configured to operate as a router to route orders to the market in fast symbol mode without posting the order at the other of the internal and external markets.

35. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein an order can be executed at only the market in fast symbol mode.

36. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the computing component is configured to maintain an order book containing orders and further resynchronize its order book with an order book at the external market before decoupling the internal and external markets, wherein the markets, once decoupled, are capable to separately facilitate an exchange between market participants.

37. (New) The system of claim 28, further comprising a software process executable by the computing component to provide communication between the internal market and the external market.